

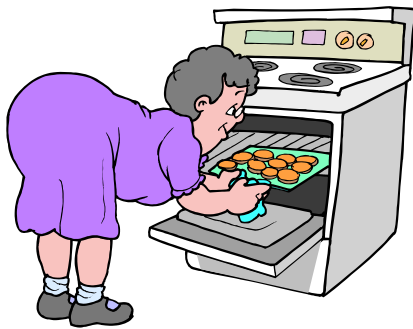


Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm

Risk Management And The Six Year Old



Risk Management is so simple a six years old can do it. Imagine if you will the whole house smelling like chocolate chip cookies right out of the oven.

Takes you back to when you were six year old doesn't it? It's extremely difficult for kids or even adults to resist the opportunity to eat some fresh, gooey chocolate chip cookies.

There is only one obstacle standing between you and the cookies - MOM. And she says it's too close to dinner time for you to be eating cookies. This is pure torture! Doesn't she know how fond of chocolate chip cookies you are, in fact you would risk almost anything to get your little hands on some of those cookies.

It must be your lucky day. The phone is ringing in the other room and MOM leaves you alone in the kitchen with all those cookies. They are yours for the taking. But wait a minute before you start stuffing your face with cookies. What will happen to you if MOM comes back and finds you with a mouth full of cookies?

Enter RISK MANAGEMENT. If you do a quick assessment of the hazards and risks involved, there has to be a way to have your cookies and avoid or at least reduce your risk of punishment to an acceptable level.

- STEP 1 - Identify the Hazards - what happens if you're caught snitching cookies.
 - You get a suspended bust because it was your father on the phone calling to tell your mother he just got a big raise and is taking the family out to dinner to celebrate.
 - Your mother gives you a spanking.
 - You get sent to your room without supper.
 - Your mother tells your father and he gives you a spanking.
 - You get sent to your room for the rest of the week.
 - You are forced into some sort of indentured servitude.
 - Any combination of the above except the first one.

- Step 2 - Assess the Hazards - probability and severity
 - You have to do a risk assessment matrix to help you determine the probability and severity of the hazards if you get caught.
 - As you think about all the things that might happen to you if MOM walks back into the kitchen while you're chewing a mouth full of those cookies, you know the risk of the last option is extremely high.
- Step 3 - Develop Controls and Make Risk Decisions - how not to get caught. Which of the controls gives you the best chance of eating some of the forbidden cookies and live to tell about it.
 - Don't take more than a mouthful.
 - Put a few cookies in your pocket and quietly slip out of the kitchen.
 - Don't get greedy; take only a few cookies so MOM won't notice they're gone.
 - Wipe the crumbs off your face.
 - Chew very fast or swallow big bites whole.
 - Don't let MOM smell the cookies on your breath.
 - Call the dog into the kitchen and coax him into knocking the plate full of cookies onto the floor, then you yell bad dog and eat as many as you can while you pretend to be cleaning up the mess.
 - Stuff as many cookies into your mouth as you can, then make up a story about a burglar coming into the house and you were trying to prevent him from stealing all the cookies.
- Step 4 - Implement Controls - you decided what controls to use, now go for it, and good luck.
- Step 6 - Supervise and Evaluate -
 - If you don't get caught, great. You have a success story to share with your friends on the playground.
 - If you get caught, make notes so you can learn from your mistakes and get the cookies without the paddling next time.

So now do you believe a six year old can use Risk Management?

